

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SCCT-02 AID-20 PC-10 DRC-01 SY-04

USSS-00 /169 W

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R 120900Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8074

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 1517

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CD

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING IN CHAD

REF: NDMAMENA 1331 (NOTAL)

1. FROM FRG EMBASSY WE LEARN THAT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BETWEEN GERMAN NEGOTIATORS AND FROLINAT CHIEF ISSENE HABRE FOR STAEWEN RANSOM TO BE PAID TODAY AND STAEWEN TO BE EVACUATED IMMEDIATELY FROM CHAD. STAEWEN WILL BE FLOWN TO N'DJAMENA IN LUFTWAFFE TRANSALL, TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER WAITING TRANSALL AND CARRIED TO TUNIS. GERMANS EXPECT GOC WILL BE FURIOUS WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES OF STAEWEN RELEASE BECOME KNOWN. FRG HAD WRONGLY COUNTED ON TOMBALBAYE ATTENDING MOGADISCIO OAU SUMMIT AND BEING OUT OF CHAD TODAY.

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2. FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOUZE TELLS ME FRG EMIIRIES HAVE

REFUSED JOIN FORCES WITH FRENCH IN NEGOTIATIONS. MUCH HIGHER BUT UNSPECIFIED RANSOM BEING DEMANDED FOR RELEASE OF TWO FRENCH HOSTAGES WHICH GOC FEELS FRANCE SHOULD NOT PAY. PRAGMATICALLY AMB FEELS EXTRICATION OF DR. STAEWEN LIKELY TO SIMPLIFY FRENCH POSITION AND ALLOW FOR CLOSER COLLABORATION WITH GOC. FRENCH RELATIONS WITH AND INTERESTS IN CHAD ARE ON DIFFERENT PLANE FROM FRG'S, TOUZE STRESSES.

3. YESTERDAY IN INFOTCHAD EDITORIAL GOC RELEASED FROLINAT'S LIST OF THIRTY-TWO POLITICAL DETAINEES WHOSE RELEASE IS ALSO CONDITION FOR LIBERATION OF HOSTAGES. LIST MENTIONS ALL MOST PROMINENT TOMBALBAYE OPPONENTS: GENERAL FELIX MALLOUM, ANTOINE BANGUI, MARK DOUNIA, KALTOUMA N'GUEMBANG, ET AL. BUT MOST NAMES ARE MINOR MUSLIM CHARACTERS UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY. LIST BEING POUCHED.

4. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE TOMBALBAYE OVER YEARS HAS INVARIABLY TARRED ANY AND ALL POLITICAL DISSIDENTS WITH FROLINAT BRUSH. MOST OF THEM, LIKE PERSONALITIES MENTIONED ABOVE, HAVE ALMOST CERTAINLY NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN FROLINAT SUWPORTERS. HABRE'S CYNICAL MOVE IN NAMING THEM PLAYS INTO TOMBALBAYE'S HANDS. QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER PRESIDENT WILL EVER RESURRECT DRAFT DECREE HE SAYS HE WAS PREPARED TO RELEASE IN MAY AT END OF MNRC'S "ECOLE DES CADRES" FREEING ALL POLITICAL DETAINEES BUT WITHHELD BECAUSE OF BARDAI INCIDENT (TEXT BEING POUCHED THIS WEEK). UNFORTUNATELY FOR CHAD'S IMAGE ABSOLUTE TRANSPARENCY OF HABRE'S PLOY WILL NOT BE APPRECIATED ABROAD. IN OUR ESTIMATION FROLINAT IS MORIBUND, FACTION-RIDDEN, UNCOORDINATED AND WITHOUT ANY PRESENT OUTSIDE SUPPORT OF CONSEQUENCE. WE STILL CONSIDER BARDAI INCIDENT A FLUKE PERPETRATED BY SMALL BAND OF MILITANT TOUBOU WHO HAVE SOUGHT TO UPSET EVOLVING RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN GOC, THE DERDE (TRADITIONAL RULER) AND MOST TOUBOU CLAN LEADERS.
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